

## REMARKS

The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated March 18, 2003 have been carefully reviewed by the Applicants.

Claims 1-2, and 5-22 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. (US 5847446) in view of Fujita et al. (US 5844306). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on the grounds that the combination of Park and Fujita fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the invention as claimed. Specifically, Park and Fujita fail to teach a restrictive region that is defined by a plurality of slots outside the periphery of a die.

Park is directed to a chip attach pad having perimeter slots that extend underneath the die placement area. The purpose of the slots as taught by Park, is to provide an opening underneath the die so that the molding compound may establish contact with the bottom of the die (column 3, lines 39-67). In the context of Park, the slots must extend underneath the die in order to serve their intended purpose. In contrast, the slots of the present claimed invention do not extend under the die placement area.

Park has been relied upon as teaching a plurality of slots defining a restrictive area. Not only does Park fail to teach a plurality of slots defining a restrictive area that is equal to or larger than the die, modification of Park to produce the present invention

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renders the invention of Park unsuited for its intended purpose, that is, establishing contact between the molding compound and the bottom of the die.

Fujita also teaches slots have an opening that extends under the die to serve their intended purpose (preventing solder scattering). Thus Fujita fails to remedy the defect of Park.

Fujita and Park teach slots that extend underneath a die, whereas the slots as disclosed and claimed in the present invention do not extend underneath a die. In summary, Applicants assert that Claims 1-2 and 5-22 are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such action by the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

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